



NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
Deborah R. Gilg

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

December 22, 2009

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg and the FBI sponsored Safe Streets Task Force made up of the Internal Revenue Service, the Bellevue Police Department, the Omaha Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On December 21, 2009, nine defendants had their initial appearances and arraignments in federal court. Those defendants are Shannon Williams, Anthony Parrott, Deshawn Hernandez, Vicki Cass, Sara Jarrett, Amy Griffith, Daniel Bouquet, Yvonne Ackerly, and Jamie Ackerly. Christopher Parrot's appearance and arraignment is set for December 22, 2009. The remaining defendant, Joe Mark Felix, was arrested in Phoenix, Arizona, and had his initial appearance in Arizona today. Shannon Williams, Anthony Parrott and Deshawn Hernandez were detained upon motion of the government. Williams and Parrott's detention hearings will be heard on December 28th and Hernandez' detention hearing will be held on December 29, 2009.

It is alleged in the indictment that from June 6, 2006, to December 14, 2009, Shannon Williams, Christopher Parrott, Anthony Parrott, Joe Mark Felix, Deshawn Hernandez, Vicki Cass, Sara Jarrett, Amy Griffith, Daniel Bouquet, Yvonne Ackerly, and Jamie Ackerly conspired to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

In addition, it is alleged defendants Shannon Williams, Christopher Parrott, Vicki Cass, Deshawn Hernandez, and Sara Jarrett conspired to launder money, knowing that the currency involved in certain financial transactions represented the proceeds from unlawful activity, that being the conspiracy to distribute marijuana. The indictment also seeks the forfeiture of property derived from the alleged marijuana and money laundering conspiracies.

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty):

Conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilos of marijuana, which

carries a penalty of not less than 10 years and not more than life and a fine up to \$4,000,000, and 5 years term of supervised release. Conspiracy to launder money carries a penalty of up to 20 years, a fine of \$500,000 or twice the value of the money laundered, and a 3 year term of supervised release.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. The amount of loss will be determined at the time of trial.

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: June 6, 2006, to December 14, 2009

Federal Arrest Date: December 18, 2009

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: December 16, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: December 21, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): N/A

Sentencing Date: N/A

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: Detention hearings set for Dec. 28 and 29, 2009
Christopher Parrott's initial appearance and arraignment set for Dec. 22, 2009

Assigned Magistrate Judge: F.A. Gossett

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Shannon Williams, Anthony Parrott and Deshawn Hernandez were detained pending a detention hearing. Vicki Cass, Sara Jarrett, Amy Griffith, Daniel Bouquet, Yvonne Ackerly, and Jamie Ackerly were released on conditions by the Court.

In Continuous Custody Since:

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Judge Lyle Strom

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: MRM